

# INTEGRATED HOUSING COMPLEX FOR WIDOWS WITH CHILDREN AND THOSE AFFECTED IN THE TSUNAMI

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## Background

This project proposes to construct integrated housing complexes with preference to widows with children who have lost the earning member in their families in the tsunami. The complex will be adopt a modular design with 22 houses, a community hall, a balvadi, a playground, a sanitary complex, solar lighting and 2 shops for establishing micro-enterprise. Each complex would cost Rs 20 lakhs to construct.

## Scope of work

Thousands of families are homeless as a result of the tsunami that struck the Tamilnadu coast on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004. Extensive relief work is being carried out by number of aid agencies and the government. Many have lost the earning members in their family leaving them in dark. The need of the hour is to implement sustainable rehabilitation and resettlement program that could help the affected to settle down.

As a first phase we have proposed to provide an integrated housing complex with preference to widows with children who have lost the earning member in their families. This will be a modular design with the following features incorporated that could be replicated and up-scaled in other tsunami affected areas. The type design of the proposed complex is enclosed.

The integrated housing complex will be erected on earthquake resistant foundation and consist of the following:

Modular houses of 200 square feet each	22 no.s
Community hall of 400 square feet	1 no.
Balvadi of 400 square feet	1 no.
Playground	
Sanitary complex	1 no.
Solar lighting for houses, toilets, streets etc	
Shops for establishing micro enterprise	2 no.s

The community hall can be used by the residents to conduct meetings, and also organize educational programs for the community.

The balvadi and playground that is integrated into the housing complex will ensure that the children need not venture out of the complex for studies or to play. This will also minimize the open defecation that is currently found near such settlements.

The sanitary complex will consist of toilets for children and adults, bathing rooms, cloth washing platforms, water supply for drinking and sanitation, dust bins etc. This will be operated and maintained by the beneficiaries themselves.

Solar lighting will be provided in the complex and the roof of the housing complex can be used for drying of fish (to produce dried fish) and this can be an economic activity for the residents.

Further two shops will be provided within the complex that will allow the community to establish a micro-enterprise that can serve as a income generation activity.

This project will be implemented by forming Self Help Groups in the community and entrusting the maintenance of the complex to them. We will be restricting our service to the most vulnerable group among the affected families and preference will be given to widows with children.

### Geographical spread of the work

The number of damaged and destroyed houses in our operational area is as follows:

Tirunelveli (8 villages)	451
Kanyakumari District (43 villages)	17100
Tuticorin (16 villages)	731

The number of houses totally destroyed is as follows:

Tirunelveli (8 villages)	300
Kanyakumari District (43 villages)	10000
Tuticorin	200

Our short term proposal for construction of integrated housing complexes is as follows:

	Affected houses	Complexes to be constructed	Houses to be constructed
Tirunelveli (8 villages)	220	10	220
Kanyakumari District (43 villages)	1000	50	1100
Tuticorin	200	10	220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1540</b>

## Budget

The cost of constructing each housing complex is estimated at Rs 20 lakhs each. We have planned to construct as many complexes as possible based on the support we receive from donors.

## Sustainability

The integrated housing complexes will be constructed and handed over to the Self Help Group formed within the community for ongoing maintenance. The shops established in the complex will serve as an income generation activity for the community. Also the families can use the roof of the complex to dry fish and produce dried fish for selling. We have proposed this project as a socio-economic activity to aid the tsunami affected families.

## Type Design for the Integrated Housing Complex

